


The rejection of claims 1 and 3 as anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) over Neumeyer, and the further rejection of claims 2, 4 and 5 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Neumeyer in view of Cross are noted and respectfully traversed.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1 and 3 as anticipated by Neumeyer, claim 1 specifically states "...that the boss and annular flat portion have substantially the same thickness.: The Board stated on page 11 regarding both Cross and Neumeyer "...we do agree with the appellants' argument.....that neither reference [Cross and Neumeyer] necessarily teaches nor suggests a boss and flange of equal thickness." Following the Board's holding leads us to conclude that Neumeyer cannot anticipate a claim which requires equality in thickness of the boss and flange. The same conclusion must follow from a consideration of Cross and Neumeyer. Neither reference teach an essential feature of the claimed invention, as found by the Board of Appeals.

It is noted that claim 6 has not been rejected over art. It is assumed, therefore, that claim 6 would be allowed once the indefiniteness is removed. Clarification is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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MARKED - UP COPY OF CLAIM 6 AS AMENDED

6. (Amended) A method of producing a rotary member made of a metallic plate according to claim [3] 2, further comprising the step of:

cutting the projecting end portion of the case-like boss having the bottom formed at the bending step after said second curving step, thus forming a shaft insertion hole therein.